



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT of RUTHERFORD COUNTY

20 Public Square North, Room 503 Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130

Phone 615-494-9710 Fax 615-494-9742

August 22, 2014

Mayor Ernest Burgess,

This is a request by the Rutherford County Domestic Violence Court for additional funding to be used to change a position that is currently part-time to a full-time position. Currently the Domestic Violence Court has a staff that consists of a full-time Court Coordinator and two part-time advocates (working 25 hours a week). We also employ a full-time Domestic Violence Prosecutor; however, this position only prosecutes cases and does not assist with any advocacy or documentation coordination. It is the Domestic Violence Courts goal to provide advocacy and education (concerning domestic violence) to victims of domestic violence in Rutherford County. The purpose of the advocacy services is to assist victims of domestic violence in court with support as a way of empowering the victims and holding batterers accountable.

The advocate position involves collaborating with representatives from the District Attorney General's Office in contact with victims, interacting with victims in court, providing victims and families with information and referrals, preparing and maintaining case files, and also interacting with police officers, probation officers, clerks, attorneys, and judges. Advocates interact with victims in order to motivate and empower them to proceed with prosecution of their offender, while also providing educational information and referrals to them. They provide case management to victims; provide information about the court process; ensure that victims understand the criminal and civil justice system and encourage court participation. Advocates prepare case files, court dockets, warrants, and other information in preparation for court proceedings. They contact each victim before court and attend court cases to support victims while in court.

In 2013 the Domestic Violence Court handled 1147 cases; most cases enter the criminal justice system a total of three times before they are disposed of therefore the 1147 cases handled last year should be multiplied to 3441 times a client would have been supported. Currently victims of Domestic Violence in Rutherford County are only supported in General Sessions's court, it is our hope to be able to acquire a full-time position as a way of being able to assist victims in Circuit court as well.

Here in Rutherford County, currently there are no advocates in Circuit Court when cases are bound over from General Sessions which leaves victims confused with the process. Often victims will reach out to the advocates in General Sessions for clarity on what is going on with their case in Circuit court. Due to there being no advocates in Circuit court victims have said the process is confusing, overwhelming and they are not made aware of what is going on with their case once it leaves General Sessions court. The Domestic Violence Court Coordinator has reached out to several Assistant District Attorneys who are very receptive to having an advocate come to Circuit court and assist with victims on days that they have court; however, in order to do so we require more man hours. In addition when cases are no true billed (not bound over from the Grand Jury) there is no one to contact victims to let them know the statues of their case. This is a concern because after a case is no true billed the victim no longer has a court order stating that the alleged batterer can not have contact with them (this is something we hope to facilitate with these new man hours).

A full-time advocate position for Domestic Violence Court would allow this program to a more complete presence within the court process here in Rutherford County. It will allow for two advocates to be in the office each day during our busy hours (currently there is one advocate working daily). The Domestic Violence Court is also a place where people come for information as to what to do after an assault has occurred and to file motions to amend certain conditions of bail, having two advocates available during busy hours will help with wait times of the population we serve.

In order to provide this additional support we would request \$19,320 in additional funding.

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTES

The number of docketed criminal cases managed from January 1, 2014 to August 31, 2014 was 696 of those 512 were misdemeanor Domestic Assaults, 166 were felony Domestic Assaults, 8 were stalking cases and 10 were violations of order of protection.

This number does not include other cases that are handled through Domestic Violence Court such as phone harassment, custodial interference, vandalism and preventing another person from making an emergency call.

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTES

The number of docketed criminal cases managed for 2013 from January to December was 1147 (An increase of 14 cases from 2012) of those 823 were misdemeanor Domestic Assaults, 280 were felony Domestic Assaults, 10 were stalking cases and 30 were violations of order of protection.

There were a total of 272 protective order petitions filed in Chancery court during January and December of 2013. During this same period (January-December 2013) there were 246 protective order petitions filed in Circuit court. This is a total of 518 protective order petitions filed in 2013.

BUDGET WORKSHEET
FISCAL YEAR 2014-15

DATE: SUBMITTED BY: _____ Monique Tillage
DEPT.: VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FUND: COUNTY GENERAL
ACCT # 53910

| OBJECT CODE | DESCRIPTION | PR YR ACTUAL 2012-13 | AMENDED BUDGET 2013-14 | ACTUAL 6 MO 2013-14 | DEPT. REQUEST 2014-15 | CO MAYOR RECOMM. 2014-15 | OBJECT CODE |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 53930 | VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS | | | | | | 53930 |
| 103 | ASSISTANT(S) | 43,740 | 46,047 | 21,789 | 47,723 | | 103 |
| 169 | PART-TIME PERSONNEL | 33,514 | 40,720 | 17,258 | 40,720 | | 169 |
| 186 | LONGEVITY PAY | - | - | - | | | 186 |
| 189 | OTHER SALARIES & WAGES | 42,710 | 44,946 | 21,526 | 45,763 | | 189 |
| 196 | IN-SERVICE TRAINING | 627 | 1,500 | 300 | 2,500 | | 196 |
| 201 | SOCIAL SECURITY | 7,420 | 8,170 | 3,739 | 8,330 | | 201 |
| 204 | STATE RETIREMENT | 10,971 | 11,550 | 4,604 | 11,200 | | 204 |
| 205 | EMPLOYEE AND DEPENDENT INSURAN | 4,705 | 5,750 | 2,035 | 5,590 | | 205 |
| 209 | DISABILITY INSURANCE | 160 | 170 | 77 | 180 | | 209 |
| 212 | EMPLOYER MEDICARE | 1,735 | 1,910 | 875 | 1,970 | | 212 |
| 307 | COMMUNICATION | 696 | 1,000 | 294 | 1,000 | | 307 |
| 320 | DUES AND MEMBERSHIPS | 400 | 475 | - | 475 | | 320 |
| 334 | MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS | 1,195 | 1,300 | 900 | 1,300 | | 334 |
| 348 | POSTAL CHARGES | 8 | 50 | - | 50 | | 348 |
| 399 | OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES | 4,315 | 4,315 | 2,517 | 4,315 | | 399 |
| 435 | OFFICE SUPPLIES | 1,805 | 1,500 | 811 | 2,000 | | 435 |
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| | Category Total | 154,000 | 169,403 | 76,724 | 173,116 | - | |

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

53910

| EXPLANATIONS | |
|--|--|
| DV Prosecutor | |
| 2 Part-Time advocates (25 hours a week each) | |
| N/A | |
| DV Coordinator | |
| Annual Training for DV Staff and DV Prosecutor | |
| Calculated by budget and finance | |
| Calculated by budget and finance | |
| Calculated by budget and finance | |
| Calculated by budget and finance | |
| Calculated by budget and finance | |
| DA Professional Tax | |
| Copy Machine Contract (\$295 every three months) BBS | |
| GSA (\$359.60 per month) | |